

## REMARKS

In the aforesaid Office Action, it is required that an Information Disclosure Statement be submitted noting any patents mentioned in the specification. It appears that in the specification reference is made to a German Offenlegungsschrift 101 02 321. An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith, citing the German document. A copy of the document is provided herewith.

FIGS. 1 and 2 of the drawings were unclear and corrected sheets are required. Replacement sheets of drawings are provided herewith, featuring FIGS. 1 and 2.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action certain corrections to the specification were required and have been effected.

A substitute specification is provided herewith and is believed to contain no new matter. The corrections required by paragraph 3 of the Office Action appear in the substitute specification, as well as the amendments submitted in a previous Preliminary Amendment, and a correction on page 2, line 24, wherein the word "not" was in error and has been deleted.

Changes to the claims remaining in the case have been amended in the accompanying amendment. It is believed that the claim amendments serve to overcome the various 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections.

Claims 1-23 were acted upon in the Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 10, 12, 19 and 22 have been canceled and new claims 24 and 25 have been added, leaving claims 3-9, 11, 13-18, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 25 for consideration.

Claims 3-9, 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,379,596 – Green et al.

New claims 24 and 25 include the feature of the weight body having a cross-section at the obtuse angled bends that is substantially equal to the cross-section of the adjacent lateral sections. The disclosure of this feature can be found in FIG. 5. The weight body shown in FIG. 5 has four obtuse angled bends 2, each of them with no substantial change in cross-section

compared to the adjacent lateral sections 11a-11e. There are no lines on the weight body shown in FIG. 5 that would suggest a change in cross-section in the area of the bends 12. Additionally, the backside of the weight body now shown in FIG. 5 is supposed to be in contact with the rim surface, therefore it is obvious that the backside will be formed to be continually in contact with the rim flange, a change in the cross-section on the backside would therefore be disadvantageous and not be considered by one skilled in the art. Therefore, one skilled in the art will realize without any doubt that the weight body shown in FIG. 5 does indeed show no change in cross-section in the area of the bends 12 compared with the adjacent lateral sections.

Green shows a weight body with incision-like areas separating lateral sections of the weight body. Although there are bends on the edges of the incisions, those bends differ from the bends according to the invention of the applicant since those bends are substantially rectangular and not obtuse angled. Therefore, Green et al. fails to anticipate the feature of the obtuse angled bends according to the invention.

Additionally, the new feature of substantially constant cross-sections at the obtuse angled bends is in direct contrast to the incisions separating the lateral sections of the weight body according to Green et al. This is because the problem solved by Green et al. differs completely from the problem the invention at hand deals with.

The applicant has developed a weight body that can be used on a variety of rim diameters without the problem of a large portion of the contact face being separated from the rim flange, therefore reducing the friction forces which keep the weight body from leaving its original position on the rim perimeter and leading to balancing problems due to displaced balancing weights. This was traditionally no problem with lead weights, which could be bent in shape during application on the rim flange due to their low solidity. Since lead is today regarded environmentally problematic, substitutes are needed. Materials like steel or zinc with a desired high mass do possess a much higher solidity, therefore making bending during the application process

of the balancing weight impossible. The applicant therefore has developed a balancing weight that is able to be applied to a great variety of rim diameters without the need for any bending.

The balancing weight shown by Green et al., however, is directed to be easily adjusted with additional small weights to straighten out errors in the application process. The possibility of adapting a weight according to Green et al. to different rim diameters is never mentioned in the specification. Only FIG. 4 shows some arrows at the ends of the weight body that could possibly be some hint in the direction of adapting the weight body to different rim diameters. But even if one skilled in the art would interpret this imprecise and unclear arrows in a way that would suggest an adaption of the weight body to different rim diameters, he would not be lead to the objection of the invention in an obvious way. For if there is a method to adapt the weight body according to FIG. 4 of Green et al., it is exactly the traditionally used bending during the application process. The weight body shown in FIG. 4 of Green et al. shows no trace of different radii of curvature; on the contrary all lateral sections seem to have the same curvature, only intercepted by incisions separating the lateral sections. Adaption of the weight body to different rim diameters therefore can only take place by bending the weight body in the area of the incisions, where the cross-section and consequently the solidity of the weight body is reduced. To do this, the weight body material has to be relatively soft. Steel, zinc or the like would resist bending and therefore the balancing weight could not be adapted to different rim diameters. More important, the bending of the weight during the application process is in direct contrast to the intention of the applicant's invention to provide a balancing weight that can be used with a big variety of rim diameters without the need of bending the weight body during the application process.

Therefore, the object of new claims 24 and 25 is distinguishable and patentable over Green et al.

In view of the above, it appears that claims 24 and 25 distinguish over Green et al.

Claims 3-9, 11 and 13-18 depend directly or ultimately from claim 24 and would appear to be allowable, at least through dependence.

Claims 20-23 depend directly or ultimately from claim 25, and appear to similarly be allowable, at least through dependency.

In view thereof, allowance of claims 24 and 3-9, 11, 13-18, and 25 and 20-23, is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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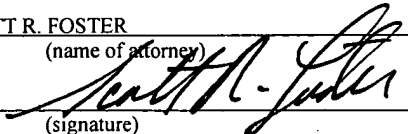
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